

WRESTLING FORUM

APRIL 30, 1987

VOLUME II

ISSUE 8

THE BOY TONY, ADRIAN ADONIS, ADRIAN STREET COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE
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THE SEARCH GOES ON...

Wanna drive yourself C-R-A-Z-Y??? Just become unemployed for a while...

Yes folks, your editor is still job hunting at present with one whole offer pouring in. Trouble is, I just didn't want to work from 9am to 9pm EVERY DAY demonstrating jewelry. The money was good, but I want a job where my family doesn't have to rely on pictures to remember what I look like.

So here I am going nuts. I have come to hate TV Game shows, Sesame Street, and Soaps in the past two weeks. I have found time to clean the yard, the garage, the cars, the basement, the fireplace, and anything else that looked remotely dirty. I used up three typewriter ribbons finishing up the short stories I'd been working on forever (Ellery Queen, your mailbox is going to be full in a few days). I caught up on all my correspondence, sent back all the tapes that I'd neglected to send, and started work on 1987's yearbook. The next day is when I started to get extremely bored.

Anyway, my fingers have been itching to get busy on this issue, and we've got a lot to talk about. The big story that came in just as we went to mail last issue was of course the death of Mike Von Erich. Just as I was getting ready to go to the post office, Ron Lemieux called from Dallas with the news. We immediately typed up the little slip that you found stapled in last issue, and proceeded to staple that in each issue. It delayed the mailing by about two hours, but there was no delay in you receiving the issue on time. It was an important story that warranted the extra time and trouble to bring it to you.

I want to say thanks to those of you who have called and written with words of encouragement. It's nice to have so many friends who are willing to pump you up when you're feeling a little down.

Some of you have suggested that I do Wrestling Forum full time, publishing weekly a la Dave Meltzer. Believe me, with so much time on my hands, I've felt like it. But simply put, we don't have enough material to fill a bulletin every single week. In order to put something like that together would take between 250-500 subscribers. Maybe sometime down the road we can consider it, but for now it's out of the question.

Our growth has been rapid, yet slow enough to keep up with. Naturally, I'd like more subscribers, but processing an average of 125 copies each time is a lot more work than one would think. We may try a subscription drive here in the next couple of months, but nothing for sure. The last one we did was quite unorganized and it took forever to give out all 50 prizes (Dan Reilly, yours is coming, I promise). If anyone has any ideas on how to increase our number of subscribers, I'd sure appreciate hearing about it. Meanwhile, we'll try to keep producing a quality bulletin that's fun to read.

For our new readers, I realize not much of that made sense, so just bear with us. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month with the actual mailing taking place the next day. Cost per issue is \$1.25 and we accept subscriptions in any multiple of that amount up to six months (12 issues max or \$15.00). We survive only through reader contributions and we accept contributions of just about anything from results to feature articles to trivia questions to things I can use to make a "Third Fall" feature out of (A feature that's published every other issue and is based on Paul Harvey's Rest of the Story).

Some of you wrote to say you enjoyed the couple of lines I put in last issue under the heading of Random Thoughts. If you'd like to see something like that become a regular feature (maybe every fourth issue or so) send in some of your own random thoughts, be they humorous, serious, or even biting. We'll give it a shot.

Another bit of credit where credit is due... the most recent issue of Pro Wrestling Illustrated (with Rick Steamboat and Randy Savage on the cover) contains an excellent editorial by Craig Peters concerning "Space Mountain" and the sexual entendres contained in all references to the same. I personally agree with the point of view offered by Craig, and hope that those in power in the NWA will take note. It was okay at first, but it got old in a hurry.

Time to get on with the news...as always we welcome your comments...

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

As usual, there may not be a whole lot of news out of here, but at least this time I do have some comments. First off, former AWA champ Otto Wanz is here, but I'm not sure whether as a babyface or a heel. The crowd at Las Vegas cheered him and he worked a face match, but a graphic on the screen after the match said he was here to prove that Leon White's World Cup victory was nothing but a fluke. I doubt if they turn Leon, so your guess is as good as mine. Wanz doesn't look bad (especially by AWA standards); he weighs around 400 yet is able to do a "steamroller" move (opponent lays prone on mat while he does a forward roll across opponent's stomach) which is very impressive for someone his size. It's also a move I haven't seen used in several years (I think Billy Red Cloud was the last one I saw use it).

Colonel DeBeers made some comments on an interview about going to the Pacific Northwest area. Interesting, considering that a year ago, he wrestled there as Mega Maharish. Actually he was talking about the whole AWA going there on tour...not him going to that promotion.

In what could be the worst match of the year (or even decade) we got to see the Blaster team with Boris Zuhkov to go against Leon White and Jerry Blackwell. People in Las Vegas had to be asking themselves why they had decided to come to this show. Larry Nelson in his own incompetent style noted after the match that this had to be the biggest tag team in wrestling history. I believe we heard that same line from Larry a couple of years ago when King Kong Bundy and Blackwell teamed together.

The Midnight Rockers have added yet another move to their repertoire...a double slingshot suplex. Can't these two do anything normal?!?! Never mind...I wouldn't want them to. These guys are the best thing to happen to the AWA since Hogan left. Keep up the good work!

I'm going to call this next the Battle of the Z's...Buck Zum Hoffs will be feuding with Boris Zuhkov it looks like, and the audience may be fighting for some zzzzz's themselves. Buck was wrestling Al-Kaissey when Boris interfered. They took Buck's boom-box and smashed it on the turnbuckle and on Buck's head. Buck bled and was saved by the Rockers. Shoot, I'm almost going to sleep just writing about it.....

They are running one night tag team tournaments around the circuit in an attempt to come up with some decent competition (or at least believable competition) for the Midnight Rockers. As a result, we may see the Rockers take a few pins. A graphic on the ESPN show proclaimed the top five teams challenging for the AWA tag title. Number one was Ninja and Saito, with number two being Bockwinkel and Stevens. Do you realize that the first time Bock and Ray won the titles, Marty Jannetty was only 9 or 10 and Shawn Michaels was only about 5!

Word comes from my source here that Curt Hennig has turned heel. Full fledged this time as he punched the daylights out of Greg Gagne during the tag tournament in Minneapolis. Now some might not think this makes him a heel (rather a hero), but the master plan is for him to have turned with this little incident. I'm sure Larry Nelson will be making the most out of it in weeks to come. By the way, according to the hotline, the Russian team won the tournament (what Russian team?)

Playboy Buddy Rose and Colonel DeBeers, the two leading heels in the AWA may have been given their walking papers by Verne. This stems from an incident where the two had evidently agreed to work an independent show as put on by Eddie Sharkey. Neither worked, although I understand that DeBeers did at least show up but refused to wrestle. that makes a lot of sense, doesn't it...firing your two best heels just for something this small. I mean, it's be different if Verne was in a position, but this man is desperate. Now he goes and fires two guys who were WILLING to work for him. Dumb move.

Gary Rawn, the new part owner of the AWA did some of the alleged play by play on the lastest ESPN broadcast. He's got the talent of David Crockett only with a better voice. Are Jim Ross and Gordon Solie the only two people in the world that can call a match that you can follow without actually watching?

They are also doing a "fan of the week" promotion. Do you think I have a chance at winning it? Darn.

LETTERS...WE GET LETTERS

Dear Jon,

I don't think your attendance figures for the Crockett Cup are accurate. In the last bulletin you gave figures of 9300 for Friday, and 13,500 for Saturday. I've been attending Civic Centre (now Baltimore Arena) matches for years. In my opinion, the attendance for Friday was poor - about 6500. I would only go with about 8200 for Saturday night. In the films you will see on TV, the arena will look full on Saturday because the entire ringside and middle concourse is full and that is the way the cameras will view it. The upper concourse is just about completely empty on Saturday and entirely empty on Friday.

The NWA will probably never hold another tournament in Baltimore. In my opinion, I don't know why they did in the first place except they probably felt they could make some inroads here. Also, in my opinion, the prices were too high. Ringside tickets were going for \$45 for both nights and middle concourse for \$35. The NWA should have picked a more established city in which they have held past matches for this tournament.

-Calvin Gundlach-

-Baltimore, MD-

EDITOR: I gave the attendance figures announced by Gary Juster. Nothing says those were accurate however. As for prices, this is not the first time I've heard complaints about Crockett prices, and I'm afraid it won't be the last.

Jon,

I noticed in recent issues the AWA and World Class reports are printed differently. Not larger type or reduced like part of the bulletin, just different from all other sections. Is this a subtle way of Jon Gallagher telling Verne and Fritz that their promotions are soooo bad, that they're not even worth of the same print as other areas? I bet my Pittsburgh Pirate season tickets that it is.

Mike Viola-

-Pittsburgh, PA-

EDITOR: Count me in for those seats when the Dodgers are in town. Actually, when I've got a lot of space to fill and not a whole lot of info, I switch the typewriter over to 10 point pitch instead of the usual 12 point (10 characters per inch as opposed to 12). You caught me cheating, that's all.

Dear Jon,

In regards to the Crockett Cup, the best tag match was Armstrongs vs Tully/Lex. Brad impressed everyone I talked to. As for the Flair-Windham match, despite both guys hurting, they both put on a great match. In my opinion, this match was better than the Steamboat-Savage WMIII match. Flair's foot WAS on the rope during the false pin. One thing about this match, there were several occasions where it really looked like Tommy Young would slap down the three count for Windham. As Flair waited till the last possible fraction of a second to kick out (this was something Steamboat-Savage didn't have as Savage always kicked out by or before the two count). The way this match went, you were really starting to think Barry might actually win the title. Even though the word was that he would not win, they got me to thinking "maybe?". This was the best live bout I've seen in some time.

-Charles Hodgkisson-

-Toronto, ONT-

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Jim Crockett has to be wondering how he managed to get himself involved in some of the messes he finds himself in. Well save the problems with the UWF until that report, cos we've got other ones to concentrate on here.

How would you feel if your three biggest acts came in and said change this one certain thing, or we quit. According to my sources, this is what happened with Crockett and company. Ric Flair, the Road Warriors, and Nikita Koloff all had a meeting with Crockett and basically told him that unless Dusty took the push off himself, they were all quitting. It seems that they are a little upset that the Dream has set himself up twice as Bunkhouse Stampede champion, NWA champion for a short time last year, and now as half of the Crockett Cup winners. Supposedly he had rather big plans for himself in the coming year also. Jim agreed that others should get the push and that he would talk with Dusty. What actually happens remains to be seen.

I don't know that I can say anything else about David Crockett that hasn't already been said. The 4-18 edition of TBS had him at his absolute worst, and almost caused me to turn off the set. It's a good thing that man's brother owns the promotion or he would be terminally unemployed.

It's only a matter of time before they turn Lex Lugar babyface. They're going to have to. Everywhere he goes he gets tremendous reactions from the crowd. I do wonder how they ever let something like this next make the actual tape, but on the 4-18 TBS show he did a power move to start off a squash match then did a pose for the TV cameras. Some lady in the audience yelled, "Hey! You ain't Hulk Hogan!" followed by a lot of laughter in the audience and stunned silence by Tony and David. Well, when they end up turning this guy, I think he has the potential to be the next Hulk Hogan. He's got a good physique, blond hair, and most women think he's good looking (I can't stand his Mick Jagger lips but then if I could, I'd be very worried about myself). He's not great on interviews but then again, Hogan mainly says, "Well ya know Mean Gene," then repeats everything else. Working with Flair, he could learn how to do a great interview and should be a major superstar for the next decade barring anything

unforseen. But in order to do much, they are going to have to turn him. It'll happen in the next year.

Oh, my. Have I lost touch with reality! I just saw the first interview by the New Breed, Chris Champion and Sean Royal. Folks, these guys are certifiably weird. They claim to be from the year 2002. Now any Sci-Fi nut knows this is impossible. That year is 15 years away. These guys are more than 15 years old. Anyone knows that you can not go back in time and occupy the same space as you already exist in. Combine these guys with Hector Guerrero running around in a mask, laser tag medallion, and space suit, and you've got something that's sillier than Vince ever came up with. I will say this...Sean has a great Road Warrior Hawk imitation and they do look good in the ring. Their finishing move is the Midnight Rockers' "Rockerplex" which looks fantastic.

The US tag titles will be determined in a tournament that will be held partially on TV. In the first match of the tourney, Barry Windham and Ron Garvin defeated Ivan Koloff and Vladimir Petrov by DQ when Nikita came out and pointed out a rule infraction to the referee (Petrov had used a chain on Ron).

On the 4-25 edition, David Crockett again showed his competence by calling Precious Baby Doll. Nice goin'.

Ricky Morton's eye injury appears to be not as serious as first suspected. Early reports indicated that he may have had a detached retina, but as more information has become available, it indicates that it is only a scratched retina, which is still bad, but would mean that his career is not over. That's good news for sure.

We have probably seen the last of Ric Flair being rated above Hulk Hogan in the newsstand magazines by virtue of Hogan's clean pinfall victory over Andre at WMIII. If Crockett is serious about contending with the WWF, Dusty is going to have to convince some of his stars to start doing jobs for the champ. Ric is losing far too many (even for a heel) by DQ or count out. Now Vince can boast of his champion having defeated ANDRE! Who can Flair honestly boast about defeating that cleanly? Even at the Crockett Cup, he had to use Barry's trunks. I invite your comments on this subject in particular.

SECOND ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM IMAGINARY TOURNAMENT

by Sean Grande

Welcome one and all to the second half of round one of the second annual Wrestling Forum 128 man Elimination tournament. Jon figured that I might as well write the intro to this issue's tourney matches because there area few things we need to clear up.

First off, there is another wrinkle to this year's tournament that Jon (purposely) left out of last month's round: SEEDINGS. Thirty two of the 128 (96 now) wrestlers that are involved in this year's tourney were seeded from 1-32. Jon thought that if we were to include seed numbers next to certain wrestlers, you would feel obligated to vote for them. Now when I dreamed up the matching system for this year's tourney, I had no idea that Jon, a man who thinks apartment 26A is the 26th apartment on the first floor (Jon's note...it is the first apartment on the 26th floor!) would underestimate your intelligence.

Let me explain why seeds were included in this year's tourney. Simple. This was to avoid (since matches were drawn at random) having, for example, Flair vs. Hogan in the first round. Any of you who follow tennis or any similar sport know that tournaments are organized so that IF for example, the #1 and 2 seeds won all their matches, they would not meet until the finals. Why am I telling you all these things? So you would know that seeds were just a way to a) give you a better idea of the quality of wrestlers with whom you might not be familiar with, and b) to avoid top wrestlers meeting in the early rounds...not to tell you who to vote for. I guess what I'm trying to say, with great verbosity, is that you shouldn't vote for or against anyone just because they are a seed.

Any one who is interested in owning a copy of the rules, an explanation of the draw and a complete draw sheet can send me either 50¢ or a SASE with a 39¢ stamp. Now onto last month's results and this month's matches:

- (1) Ric Flair defeated the Iron Sheik 22-1.
Jimmy Garvin outclassed Tony Atlas 19-3 (1 draw).
Kevin Von Erich beat Big Bubba 16-6 (1 draw).
- (32) Dusty Rhodes over Buddy Roberts 18-5
- (17) Nobuhiko Takada slipped by Missing Link 11-10 with 2 draws.
Hercules Hernandez powered by Wendell Cooley 18-5
Paul Orndorff nosed out Jim Neidhart 11-9 (3 draws)
- (16) Steve Williams had no trouble with Krusher Kruschev 20-2 (1 draw).
- (3) Tatsumi Fujinami whipped Ray Rougeau 17-4 (2 draws)
Jake Roberts DDT'd Ole Anderson 19-3 (1 draw)
Lex Luger disposed of Boris Zhukov 20-2 (1 draw)
- (25) Nick Bockwinkel slaughtered Mr. Saito 19-3 (1 draw)
- (24) Butch Reed advanced over Takashi Ishiwaka 18-3 (2 draws)
Tito Santana downed Savannah Jack 19-3 (1 draw)
One Man Gang outweighed Buddy Rose 15-8
- (9) Riki Choshu got by Brian Adias 18-3 (2 draws)
- (5) Ted DiBiase blasted Jack Victory 20-1 (1 draw)
Chavo Guerrero suplexed Eddie Gilbert 14-7 (2 draws)
Greg Valentine slid by Owen Hart 12-9 (2 draws)
- (28) Roddy Piper pinned Hacksaw Higgins 19-3 (1 draw)

- (21) Rick Martel shutout Dingo Warrior 22-0 (1 draw)
Buzz Sawyer avoided Jimmy Snuka 15-6 (2 draws)
Rick Rude got past Hiro Saito 15-6 (2 draws)
- (12) Harley Race crowned Tonga Kid 20-1 (2 draws)
- (13) Dynamite Kid had a miracle victory over Akio Sato 16-4 (3 draws)
Arn Anderson goose-egged Steve Keirn 22-0 (1 draw)
Allen Coage was bad news for Tommy Rich 15-5 (3 draws)
- (20) Akira Maeda nudged Brad Armstrong 13-9 (1 draw)
- (29) Hulk Hogan leg dropped Buddy Landell 18-5
Keiji Mutoh barely survived Shunji Takano 9-7 (7 draws)
Sam Houston got the duke over Koko B Ware 17-5 (1 draw)
- (4) Bruiser Brody stormed past Robert Gibson 22-1

HERE ARE THE MATCHES FOR PART B round 1:

RANDY SAVAGE (3) vs Animal Hamaguchi	Marty Janetty vs Shawn Michaels
DICK SLATER vs Road Warrior Animal	Jim Brunzell vs ANTONIO INOKI (30)
Terry Taylor (19) vs JERRY STUBBS	ADRIAN ADONIS vs Kuniaki Kobayshi
Jeff Jarrett vs DINO BRAVO	Shiro Koshinaka vs TERRY GORDY (14)
TERRY FUNK (11) vs Jimmy valiant	Dory Funk vs DAVID SHULTZ
KEVIN SULLIVAN vs MANNY FERNANDEZ	JESSE BARR vs Genichiro Tenyru (22)
JUMBO TSURUTA (27) vs Mike Craham	BOBBY EATON vs Bob Orton
IVAN KOLOFF vs Larry Zbyszko	CHRIS CHAMPION vs Yoshiaki Yatsu (6)
Ricky Steamboat (7) vs BEN BASARA	Tim Horner vs COL. DEBEERS
HONKY TONK MAN vs Wahoo McDaniel	STEVE REGAL vs Jerry Lawler (26)
TULLY BLANCHARD (23) vs Matt Borne	RIP OLIVER vs Greg Gagne
MIKE MILLER vs Ron Simmons	KENDALL WINDHAM vs Barry Windham (10)
BRET HART (15) vs Brutus beefcake	MICHEAL HAYES vs Rick Morton**
Road Warrior Hawk vs DENNIS CONDREY	DON MURACO vs Jim Duggan (18)
NIKITA KOLOFF (31) vs Pedro Morales	Ron Garvin vs BILL DUNDEE
KENGO KEMURA Vs Ricky Santana	BLACK BART VS STAN HANSEN (2)

Send your votes to:

SEAN GRANDE
10 Waterside Plaza #26A
New York, NY 10010

Deadline for votes is May 23, 1987. Everyone who votes will have one entry into the prize drawing at the end of the tourney, grande prize being a 1987 yearbook when published. Let's get Sean about 50 votes to work with here. Results and round two matchups to be announced in issue # 10.

TOURNEYFACTS...

While 1986 champ RIC FLAIR started where he left off last year, crushing the Iron Sheik 22-1, he did fail to shut the Sheik out...Arn ANDERSON AND Rick Martel were the only two to accomplish that feat winning 22-0-1 over Steve Keirn and Dingo Warrior respectively....the tournament record for the largest shutout is shared by Flair (27-0 victory over Bobby Eaton last year in the third round) and Nick Bockwinkel (a 27-0 reaming of Boris Zhukov in last year's opening round)....Zhukov finally broke through this year picking up two votes in his match with Lex Luger before being eliminated...Although there were no upsets this time around, Greg Valentine, Nobuhiko Takada (17) and Akira maeda (20) certainly had rough moments...That's all for this month...don't forget that each time you vote your name is entered into the drawing for prizes at the end of the year.

MEMPHIS

Did I say that? Opps. Last issue, I reported Alan West was ready to feud with newcomer Thunderbird. My mistake. I've been taking the Memphis reports for a good part over the phone, and this time, I misunderstood. What was going on, Alan was set to just wrestle Thunderbird (who is strictly a prelim guy) when the Hunter interfered. No big deal as Alan and Hunter are still feuding. One thing of note, Alan is definitely improving which says something for working with someone like Hunter every night.

We have a new set of Southern Tag Champs...Rocky Johnson and Soul Train Jones have defeated Big Bubba and Coliath. Can you imagine how awful these matches they've been having must have been? Scary to think.

Meanwhile, Paul Dangerly (formerly Dangerously and before that magazine editor Paul Heyman...maybe there is hope for me yet) is now managing Austin Idol. Idol still holds the Southern Championship and is still feuding with Jerry Lawler for it. You might note that Idol is doing a Piper's Pit type segment he calls, "Idol Gossip". Catchy name.

This is getting good. Part II of the Tanaka-Jarrett-Diamond feud is underway. Although it started out very predictable and plain dumb, it has taken a few twists that make it one of my favorite things going (then again wrestling is a little slow right now). As you'll recall when we last left our hero (Jarrett) and his nemesises (Diamond and Tanaka), it was a three way feud. Jarrett took on Tanaka with the winner to get Diamond. Jarrett beat Tanaka by DQ and thus got Diamond. Tanaka interfered in that match to reunite himself with Diamond.

The next week, Bruno came out with Diamond and Tanaka calling them his new "Downtown Bruno's Prime Time". According to Pat, Paul Diamond has the biggest heart in the world. He called Pat to tell him that what he had done was wrong and because of that, he was going to give him half of the \$5000 he had collected for unmasking the BT Express as Billy Travis (Paul and Pat had actually ripped the mask off together when Paul turned heel, but Paul got the mask, and also the money, therefore the feud).

So next up comes Jeff Jarrett, sporting the latest in Nikita Koloff neckbraces. He issued a challenge to Tanaka and Diamond, offering to take them on in a handicap match with some special stipulations. He would put up \$5000 if Diamond and Tanaka could BEAT him in ten minutes. If they couldn't or if he won, then Billy Travis was to return. Bruno thought it over and said no. So out comes Jerry Lawler and offers another five grand, making a total of \$10,000 in Bruno's pocket if Pat and Paul won. Naturally Diamond and Tanaka are excited about those prospects, but then Eddie Marlin came out and told Jerry to forget it. They passed at the first offer, and there should be no more.

At this point, Jerry told Eddie he wasn't talking like a wrestling promoter, rather as Jeff's grandfather. They continued to argue for a bit, before Jerry made a few more conditions for the match.

First of all, even though it would be a handicap match, he would station himself in Jeff's corner. The heels would have to wrestle strictly as a tag team...first sign of double teaming, and Lawler would make his presence felt. With this all agreed to, the match then was scheduled.

Guess who is back wrestling with his loser leave town contract now null and void. Ten points if you said Billy Travis. We can now look for Jarrett and Travis to team against Tanaka and Diamond, and we can also expect some very solid first class matches from the foursome.

Florida personnel continue to invade the area. Jack Hart is the newest guy in. You may remember they played up his gimmick a few years back in Florida as having lost more consecutive matches than any other wrestler.

Boy Tony is gone as is Jonathan Boyd.

Prediction, with more info next time...in the next 4 months, Tojo Yamamoto will turn babyface after another unnamed manager steals his Japanese tag team.

MIKE VON ERICH: A Retrospect

On the morning of April 16, 1987, the body of Mike Von Erich, neé Adkisson was found fully clothed and in a sleeping bag in some deep undergrowth near Lewis Lake just north of Dallas. He had been reported missing by his family on April 13. His car, a 1986 grey Mercury Marquis had been found Wednesday night before his body, not more than 600 yards from where he died. The ring jacket he wore was found in the car along with a note which read, "Mom and Dad, I'm in a better place now. I'll be watching."

Police said that there was no signs of struggle or trauma to the body. Mike had reportedly been depressed after posting bail on a drug and alcohol charge the Saturday night before. According to police reports, Von Erich had been stopped for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. Traces of other drugs (none specified) were allegedly found in the car also. Police say all signs point to that of an apparent suicide.

That, folks, is the news story that we promised you last issue. Where to go from here, I'm not sure. I've sat here at this typewriter for several hours writing several different versions of what I wanted to say. All of them seemed crass and in very poor taste. A death is always a tragic thing; one that is self inflicted is not only tragic, it is also most difficult to comprehend.

Perhaps wrestling was not the profession that Mike Von Erich should have chosen. But when your father owns the promotion and all your brothers have gone into the business, it's hard to say "no".

Saying "no" should have been easier for Mike. First of all, he was not that great of a wrestler. Of the four brothers who have worked in the ring, Mike was probably the least talented. And he knew it.

But carrying on the family tradition was something that was impossible to say no to. After the death of his older brother David, Mike probably felt compelled to continue. After all, his father was counting on him. His fans were counting on him too.

Then came his bout with toxic-shock syndrome. Hospitalized and given little chance of recovery, Mike beat the odds and in fact returned to the ring, something no one ever expected him to do.

Injuries plagued Mike throughout his career. It was as if some higher form of intelligence was trying to convince him to stay away from the ring. Several shoulder injuries kept him from going full time. One landed him in a local hospital resulting in the emergency room doctor filing suit against him for assault. He was acquitted of those charges just recently.

Last summer, a motorcycle accident put brother Kerry out of action, leaving Mike to fill more wrestling boots. Pressure from both the fans in Texas along with a constant nudging from his father kept Mike in the ring.

Mike's problems and dilemmas came to a head April 11. At 12:30 am he was stopped for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. Allegedly other drugs were found either on his person or in his vehicle. After being released, we can only guess as to what went through his mind.

He had been raised a spoiled brat, with his daddy being able to get him out of just about any jam. At the very least, Papa Fritz was able to conduct a massive coverup of any undesirable facts concerning his son's life. The assault on the ER doctor occurred in May of 1985. Even insiders knew nothing of this until just recently.

So what we have is a 23 year old kid, wondering how he's going to get out of this one. As small of a problem as this one charge seems, we have to wonder what other factors induced him to pop a handful of tranquilizers into his mouth and lay down in some tall grass in a sleeping bag.

Sometimes I wished I'd have gone on with college instead of dropping out. I would have taken some fancy psychology courses that would have enabled me to more carefully dissect his motives. Unfortunately, all I have is ex-

perience to go on.

There is a fine line between bravery and cowardice. Most of us walk directly on that line everyday, being called off the line only in matters of extreme urgency. Is a man who is walking a city street with his family and suddenly accosted by an armed mugger a coward because he cooperates to save his family's life? Is he brave is he punches the mugger out...or is he foolish? The answer lies in the end result...and the eye of the beholder.

I know what it is like to contemplate suicide. Life sometimes gets too complicated. I know what it is like to sit with a loaded gun in your hand, knowing that in just a few short seconds, the personal problems of this life will be a thing of the past. I know what it is like to NOT have enough guts to pull that trigger. No guts because I wouldn't have the nerve to deprive my little girl of a daddy...or to abandon my wife...or to run away from the little problems that sometimes seem just too big to handle. It takes a brave person to pull that trigger. It took a brave person to pop those pills.

Then again, to pull that trigger would be an act of utmost cowardice. I know that with God on my side, there's nothing the two of us can't handle. With Someone like that on my side, there's no reason in the world to back down from any foe, let alone something that's psychological.

Suicide solves the personal problems; it is only the beginning for those close to the victim. There will be remorse at the actual death. There will be some sleepless nights for those close to the victim wondering if there was just one phrase or word that might have helped to save a life. There will be final expenses that will tend to drag on for months. There will be shoes to fill with no one coming close to filling them. There will be a thousand questions left unanswered, most of them ending in simply, "Why?".

Was Mike Von Erich brave, or was he a coward? The answer depends on your point of view. He had more guts than me, yet I choose to live. I can not answer the question.

All I can say is that wrestling has lost a twenty three year old who should still be alive. We can point fingers at his father for pushing him, at the media (Wrestling Forum included) for panning his work in the ring, at people who tried to get rich at both his expense and the expense of his family, and at anyone else that was remotely connected with the wrestling business. The bottom line is, Mike Von Erich is dead.

The loss of life is always tragic. The loss of a life as senselessly as this one was lost is even more so.

additional comments

I tired to be nice. It worked for a while. But dog gone it, when a father puts aside his feelings for his family, one has to wonder just how nice to be. I've just received a phone call with some distressing news concerning Papa Fritz's reaction to his own son's death.

The first thing is, Fritz wanted authorities to tell the press that the death of Mike was not a suicide, rather a murder. How asinine. At first I felt sympathy for the Von Erich family. Now I feel pity. A family experiences a tragedy such as this, and almost the first thought from the grieving father is "how can I sensationalize this to make some money?". Fritz Von Erich, you are a first class, world class JERK.

The second was the report on the actual funeral. According to a report I got, about 600 turned out to pay their final respects to Mike. Fritz commented off the record that he "was a little disappointed at the turn out" like he was commenting on the attendance for another of one of his cards.

I pray that God has been merciful on Mike Von Erich's soul. I also pray that someday Fritz somehow will get a little sense banged into his head. So far the death of three sons hasn't managed to do that.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Just a couple of notes before beginning...WAPT was voted by our readers as the best Forum Feature of 1986. It was inspired by an anonymous letter in our 10-15-86 issue asking about what the wrestler's personalities were like outside the ring. WAPT debuted in the 10-30-86 issue and ran each issue from then on taking a short six week vacation. Here we return WAPT to you with some view points offered up by...the author of the original anonymous letter who we shall call simply "Autograph Hound".

The Days Inn in Baltimore was the place to be during the just completed Crockett Cup. Just about all the wrestlers except the Japanese team and the Four Horsemen stayed there. Some wrestlers lived true to their ring persona...others quite different:

RANDY AND BILL MULKEY - treated almost as heroes. Photo and autograph sessions everywhere.

SHASKA WHATLEY - signed, but didn't say much.

TEIJO KHAN - "Me no sign".

TODD CHAMPION - as nice as one could be.

BILL DUNDEE - only signed for the lady-folk.

BOBBY EATON - very cordial and personalized autographs. Made himself scarce though.

BARON VON RASCHKE - signed and posed. Even did a claw imitation upon request.

JIMMY VALIANT - startled youngsters by ignoring them all. Lots of "not now"s when asked to sign.

RONNIE GARVIN - projects a sinister image but did sign a few.

BOB ARMSTRONG - very nice and talked to fans about his Continental days.

IVAN KOLOFF - kept the Russian accent but signed and posed and joked about charging \$50 per autograph.

KEVIN SULLIVAN - signed and posed although he looked quite unhappy to be in the situation.

JIM CORNETTE - very nice. Totally different than his ring demeanor.

PAUL JONES - in the morning with his tennis shoes and golf hat he talked and signed. In the evening with his cowboy suit on, he refused all takers.

ROBERT GIBSON - fairly aloof, but signed.

THE ROAD WARRIORS - both signed but Hawk kept himself scarce. Animal was in the lobby after Saturday's

show, drinking a beer and being very cordial.

RUDE AND FERNANDEZ - no one dared approach either one. Very moody and brooding. Rumors of Bull chewing off the tops of shot glasses in the bar quieted autograph hounds.

BIG BUBBA ROGERS - gave out a few autographs but then ran to catch the elevator.

JOBBER NELSON ROYAL, RICKY LEE JONES, ITALIAN STALLION, GARY ROYAL, AND ROCKY KING signed for all.

WAHOO MCDANIEL - signed a few but looked bored.

TIM HORNER - was very friendly and pleased at the fans' response.

VLADIMIR PETROV - when I get my first million, I'm hiring Al Blake as my bodyguard. HUGE MAN! He shook his head when asked to sign. No one asked again.

BILL APTER - very friendly and enjoys talking wrestling. No wonder his magazines are number one!

TONY SCHIAVONE - not friendly. Hustled his way to the elevators and was seen sneaking in a side entrance.

I wonder why?

MISTY BLUE SIMMS - looked sexy as ever. Was in the lobby Friday afternoon and signed for those who recognized her.

One other letter that shall remain anonymous:

When you start up your WAPT feature again, you should include my experience with RIC FLAIR. The man is a true gentleman, despite what you see on TV. He is happily married and lives in Charlotte in a house you only dream about. His tastes outside the ring are very simple. When I met him, I knew who he was from my following of the sport (who could miss those long flowing tresses), but he was casually dressed in blue jeans, cowboy boots, and a t shirt. He drives nice cars as you would expect of someone who makes a six figure income, but he didn't really flaunt his wealth as I expected. I understand he does like liquor after a match, but this Space Mountain thing is a crock. He seemed very quiet and reserved, and when I told him I appreciated his work and how he carried some of his opponents some times, he smiled and said thanks, never admitting anything. He is truly a class act both in and out of the ring.

FLORIDA REPORT
by Jeff Bowdren

A couple of big stories coming out of the state of Florida and the CWF this week. First is that Dusty Rhodes and Kevin Sullivan seem ready to renew their feud of some four and a half years. This past weekend on Gordon Solie's show, Kevin came out on an interview session and announced that Bubba Rogers hadn't gotten the job done and that he wanted Dusty that night in Lakeland. He then called out Jim Crockett and said that until Crockett gave him a contract to wrestle Dusty, that there would be no more wrestling on the program. After Crockett signed the contract, Kevin came up with one of his usual great interviews (you have to give this guy credit for at least that...He does give some tremendous interviews) stating amongst other things, "I hate you, I hate your kids, I hate your family! you made me wait two long years to get you back in the ring!" Sometimes I'm amazed that Dusty lets Kevin get away with those little digs about Dusty leaving Florida for Crockett two and a half years ago. Anyway, the match itself should be terrible, but it should get a big crowd with lots of heat. When the feud started years ago, Kevin was taking better bumps, still had a good body and Dusty was still capable of having a good match. Whether or not the fans can get interested in the feud again remains to be seen. One thing I will say is that when the feud was big in Florida, Dusty and Kevin seemed to come up with some new angle every week to keep the thing fresh. Personally I used to get a laugh when Kevin would come out with his chest hair shaved to form an "X".

The other big story this week is the two big cards coming up in the area, April 26 in Daytona at the Ocean Centre which will headline with the Road Warrior Nikita-Dusty vs the Four Horsemen. That should draw a big crowd, but I sure hope the Horsemen come with their working shoes on, because with the guys they're working against, they're going to have to carry the match. The other big show will be in the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg on May 9, which had been dubbed the first annual Eddie Graham Memorial Card. Supposedly, all the stars of the NWA will be on hand, with the proceeds going to the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch, a charity that Eddie Graham co-founded. Jim Crockett was on with some local sheriff stating that he and Eddie were "best of friends". I've heard some unconfirmed rumors that Crockett would like to have Dory Funk Jr. and Jack Brisco on the card.

Other notes from Florida...Ed Gantner will be turning babyface within the next week or so. How exciting...Kendall Windham has returned after being out with a broken ankle....Ric Flair was back on Championship Wrestling from Florida for the first time in about nine months....April 19 in Orlando has Flair vs. Rotunda...April 22 in Miami has the MOD Squad vs. the Southern Boys with no DQ, Rotunda vs the Tahitian Prince, Sullivan vs Barry Windham...Only problem is that Barry is booked in Los Angeles that night...Lex the flex had a television match this week and during the match, fans were chanting "steroids, steroids"...Quote of the week goes to Jimmy valiant, who said that he was the perfect partner for the Southern Boys, "Because I'm from the SOUTH Bronx"...Oliver humperdin is the new host for Southern Professional Wrestling....Buddy Colt is apparently out...Sullivan called Kendall "the flower of Black-jack's loins"...Bye 'til next time...

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

A little unfinished business to begin things here; Jim Neidhart has been acquitted of all charges stemming from the incident where he supposedly struck an airline stewardess. The jury was out less than two hours before returning the innocent verdict. Neidhart had been accused of punching stewardess Ava Winston in a dispute over payment for two beers. Neidhart had always claimed that he had merely tapped her on the arm to get her attention. The defense called 18 witnesses who said that they had seen nothing more than the Anvil tapping her on the arm to get her attention. In fact, an elderly lady who sat next to Neidhart on the flight said her only complaint was that Neidhart was a big man who "spilled out of his seat". Had he been convicted, he faced a maximum penalty of 20 years in jail and a \$275,000 fine.

Occasionally we get a little hard on wrestlers when something like this comes up. We assume guilt without knowing all the facts. We hereby publicly apologize to Mr. Neidhart for all the bad things we thought about him and this incident. Furthermore, we applaud his next action. Neidhart has filed a countersuit against Ms. Winston for defamation of character. In court documents, Neidhart claims that Winston's charges "intentionally, maliciously and with premeditation made false and defamatory statements to various USAir officials, airport personnel and law enforcement officers to the effect that Neidhart had assaulted and intimidated her." Also the accusations led to him "being held up in scorn, ridicule and contempt among his professional acquaintances, neighbors and others in the community."

Otherwise, not much is happening on a national level with the WWF. Another edition of Saturday Night's Main event will have come and gone by the time you read this. It is scheduled for broadcast this Saturday night (5-2) and will have been taped in South Bend Indiana I believe on 4-28. That's a bunch less lead time than they usually have.

Honky Tonk Man Wayne Ferris is leading the way to "Ban the DDT". This is another of the WWF's imaginary fan balloting things where the outcome is determined far in advance of the first ballot ever being received.

The reason for doing this is not to find out what the fans think, rather to get more names for their current mailing list. What this whole thing tells me is that they have just come out with a new catalog.

Ken Patera will have done some arena shows by the time you read this. He's back as a full fledged babyface. The story the gave behind his arrest was like those TV movies you sometimes see...based on fact. Gene Orkerlund told the story of how he and a "co-conspirator" (Mr. Saito, but since he isn't with the WWF they couldn't say his name) allegedly threw a rock through a fast food restaurant window. From what we've heard from here already, there is no doubt he will be feuding with Heenan and company.

Let's hope they stick to discussing culinary delights rather than teaming...Hillbilly Jim and Outback Jack have been appearing together on interview segments discussing life in the country on both continents. Food has been a major topic as has raccoons and emues (a big bird that lays an egg big enough to fix an omlet for 12 people). A tag team between these two could result in one of the worst in the history of the sport.

Locally, the WWF will return to Peoria on the 4th of May and to the Quad Cities on the 18th. Peoria has a decent card with a cage match between Steamboat and Savage scheduled, but the Quad Citie's main event will feature Boring Jack vs Hercules with a chain match, along with Blackjack Mulligan against Nic Volkoff.

One thing I've noticed as they are coming off haitus is the interview segments ard a lot different. The first one starts off with Gene interviewing Alfred Hayes and saying hello to the city they are coming to. That's followed by Gene announcing the upcoming card then what I call a generic interview. It's done with some of the talent that will be appearing on the card, however it's done in such a way that it can be used in every city that wrestler is to appear with out the wrestler having to tape fifty different spots. No doubt with the area the WWF covers, this is a definite time saver the wrestlers can appreciate. For fans like me who see three different telecasts from three different cities showing the same exact interview, it gets rather tedious.

Maybe one more reason Patera is coming back as a face...to convince prison officials that he's really turned over a new leaf? Think about it.

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

I honestly think that I could fill a whole bulletin with nothing but rumors and speculation that I've heard concerning the Crockett Buyout. Things are flying in here faster than any story that's ever broke while I've been doing this newsletter. It is amazing.

All I can give you is some speculation along with some facts that have been sifted through the rumors. I will not reveal my sources, so don't even ask. I will try to make it clear as to what is fact, rumor and speculation.

This first is definitely speculation. Why did Crockett buy the UWF? The obvious answer is to solidify his position as the number two promotion in the world of wrestling and to give his own Charlotte based promotion more of a talent pool on which to draw. One other thing that's floated in rumor wise, was simply to gain control of the numerous TV markets that the UWF had under their control. I would tend to agree with the former rather than the latter. Other rumors are almost certainly only that...rumors.

As for changes, the first has occurred. Big Bubba Rogers (Jim Cornetta's bodyguard) has defeated One Man Gang for the UWF title. As I understand it, there are two reasons for this move; one is to appease Jim Cornetta (who was one of the ones in Jim Crockett's office objecting to Dusty's ego) and the other was to say farewell to OMG. He is reportedly off to the WWF to feud with Duggan before becoming Hogan's late summer challenger.

Other changes hinge from a meeting Crockett had individually with each of the UWF wrestlers somewhere around 4-14. It was at that meeting that he supposedly offered each wrestler a chance to stay on with the promotion as it changed hands. He seemed to be very vague about each wrestler's role after the takeover, but one thing he was very specific on was salaries. One wrestler that I know of for sure was making \$2000 a week and he was offered \$1200 per week by Crockett.

As for who's staying and who's leaving, I think I have pretty well sorted out that mess. It looks like One Man Gang is definitely on his way to Vince-land as well as Sam Houston and wife Nickla (Baby Doll). Also on their way out, but with apparently no where to go are Savannah Jack, Buzz Sawyer (who had just returned before the buyout), Wild Bill Irwin, and the Missing Link. Those who are going to stay on as of this writing include Chris Adams and Terry Taylor (who may be turning heel...more later), Steiner and Sting, as well as Chavo and newcomer Bob Bradley. The latest I've heard on Steve Williams was that he would probably going to stay on, but there was still a possibility of him leaving. At one time, I understand he had made up his mind to leave. As for Ted DiBiase, he is very much enjoying what may turn out to be a bidding war for his services. The latest I have on him was 50-50.

Eddie Gilbert is scheduled to stay on as the "on site booker" which means that Dusty is going to have full control after all. Jim Ross will continue to do the TV announcing. His color commentator has not been named on a permanent basis although Magnum TA will be at his side for the first two tapings.

John Ayres, a pro football player has been named as UWF commissioner, a position that I know nothing about. My only guess is that it will be a figurehead position, much the same as Stanley Blackburn or Jack Tunney fill. Joel Watts is reportedly going to stick around for a while to handle some of the production work, but his future here may be quite limited.

Terry Taylor and Chris Adams did in fact lose the tag titles to Steiner and Sting in Atlanta on 4-12 as we speculated last issue. Around the circuit after this, Adams and Taylor have been losing regularly in rematches, each time with what seems Adams ko'ing Adams by mistake. This was originally done to set up Terry as a heel, but with everything happening so fast, people leaving and possibly coming, his role as of yet has not been clearly defined. As soon as the cast of characters has been fully assembled, then is when they are going to start working on some angles.

As for what's been happening up to this point, I'll go ahead and fill you in here. Terry Taylor had some transportation problems getting to a

TV taping where he and Chris were scheduled to defend the belts against Iceman and Sting. Chris decided rather than to give up the belts with out having a match, he would take on both Ice and Sting by himself. He got the tar beat out of him until Taylor ran in, still dressed in street clothes and suitcase in hand. He used the suitcase to clear the ring. This again I believe was an attempt to set him up in the heel role (deserting Chris and arriving late).

I've finally had the chance to see the incident where jobber Gary Young turns on Chavo (in fact I've seen it SEVERAL TIMES...once a week on both shows for three straight weeks now). Basically what happened was they were the last two left in the ring during a "\$39,000" Houston Battle Royal. Chavo wanted to split the money, each getting \$19,000 (hey Chavo, you can send the extra grand to P. O. Box 65 Knoxville, IL). They decided to wrestle for it with the best man winning fair and square. Chavo won it, but was attacked after with Young stealing the check. Sorry, guys, but this feud is going nowhere fast.

They also showed a clip hyping the upcoming catfights around the country. They have already run their course (thank God), and after witnessing one in person, I can tell you that the clips they strung together (of all the incidents involving the girls) lasted LONGER than the actual catfights in the arenas did. The clips went 2:00 while the catfights went about 1:30.

Gordy's return was a little less spectacular than I had anticipated, maybe because it was anticlimactic since I saw him three weeks ago. Anyway, he came to the ring to be interviewed by Bruce Pritchard, but he wasn't interes in talking, rather "kicking some butts". He ended up shoving Bruce down before he left the ring. He then returned later during a match between two TV jobbers and destroyed them both. He is getting built up to the point of superman where EVERYONE is flat out afraid of him. I hope that if he decides to stay on (the Freebirds are still question marks with no real indication of which way they're going) they keep up this image. I like it.

On the Power Pro show, he returned to annihilate the Viking from Devastati Inc. The Viking didn't have a chance to sell the way Gordy was all over him. Gordy followed up every move with another until he put him away with a Freebird piledriver. Despite his bum knee, Gordy is looking great.

I wish I could say the same about Steve Cox. I hope that with the buyout, he is pushed into TV jobber land where he belongs until he learns the business.

FROM HEEL TO BABYFACE BACK TO HEEL in less than one short hour. That's the route that Sting took recently. Eddie Gilbert was in the ring being interviewed by Pritchard, shooting off his big mouth as usual. The way he was phrasing stuff, you knew something was coming. Anyway, he said he would take on ANYONE. Ken Mantel came out and they bantered back and forth for a while before Eddie committed himself to wrestling anyone in the top ten that Mantel wanted to pick out. Mantel chose (with his usual great dramatic pauses)... STING! The crowd went bananas. Later in the show, they came out to wrestle and after the bell rang (crowd still going bonkers for Sting) Sting grabbed the house mike and said that Eddie was his best friend and that he wouldn't wrestle him. They left the ring together (Is this the first time Sting has had a speaking role on TV?). Sam Houston came out to take up the challenge however and after being called a yellow chicken, Eddie accepted, saying, "I don't even know your name, boy, but if you want a match, you got it!" Eddie went on to do a job, clean in the middle of the ring (non title) after a Houston bulldog. This set up all the Gilbert-Houston matches around the country which from all reports were fantastic.

Crockett takes full control tomorrow (5-1). Repercussions next issue along with an article by Jeff Siegel called "Marketing 101" or "Why there's a darn good chance that Crockett will, in many cities, continue to run the UWF as competition to his 'A' team".

WORLD CLASS
BY Jeff Siegel

As anyone who reads these pages knows, I have never been a big fan of Mike Von Erich. In fact, I have probably been one of his harshest critics.

Unfortunately, none of that means a darn thing anymore. Instead, we're left with the story of a confused young man who saw fit to take his own life. Suddenly, his work rate doesn't matter much anymore.

As those of you saw my comments on Mike Bellew's death in the Observer know, I strongly believe that there's a time and place for everything. It's important to prevent the line between wrestling and reality from blurring. Whether or not Mike Von Erich knew how to "sell" dims in importance when tragedy strikes. Death has a way of putting things in a perspective all its own.

Mike Von Erich was indeed a brash young man who was often guilty of selfish, uncalled for behavior. However, it's only fair to point out that we've often mourned the death of others who were guilty of far worse.

My condolences go out to Jack Adkisson and his family. It's a shame that Mike's life had to end this way.

Of course, Mike's death leaves some of the details of the 4th annual David Von Erich Parade of Champions in doubt. I sincerely hope (and I say this with absolutely no sarcasm) that Fritz doesn't exploit Mike's untimely death in the ways that David's death has been exploited over the years. Not at this time, so close to the actual tragedy. It'll be the embarrassment to end all embarrassments if he does. We can only hope.

At the same time, Mike's death may well lead to another turn by Brian Adias. The two were supposed to face each other in a country whipping match. Now, it's possible that Brian may be a babyface again by the time you read this. From strictly a "human" standpoint, I'd think that Adias would find it hard to continue playing the heel role at this point. After all, he and Mike really did grow up together; this whole turn of events has surely thrown Adias for a loss as well.

Anyway, the event will be held at Texas Stadium on 5-3. With some decent talent taking up residence in World Class for a change, you'd think that Fritz

could've at least put together a respectable card. Instead, it'll be, for the most part, another sickening display Of Fritz' tendency to confuse bad taste with trash.

For starters, they'll throw six girls into a ringful of mud in a battle royal - a surefire way to turn off any legitimate wrestling fans. To make matters worse, two of the participants will be accosted from the GLOW carnival, and two others will be the women who hang around ringside masquerading as Fritz's answer to Vince's Federettes. What a joke. With Crockett picking up the UWF, maybe this is Fritz's first overture toward joining forces with GLOW's David McLane. What a tag team the two of them would make.

In the title match on the Texas Stadium card, Kevin will defend against Nord the Barbarian. Interesting thing here is to see if Nord will sell for Kevin -

though I'm sure it'll go to a non-ending (probably outside interference by Jeep Swenson and others). Mil Mascaras is also scheduled to meet Al Madril.

Lance Von Erich is out for a good few months, the victim of a Nord attack that supposedly resulted in Lance's arm being broken. Actually, Lance is going in for elbow surgery, reducing even further the number of Von Erichs now actively wrestling on the WCCW scene.

Could the guy under the Red River Jack mask when RRJ and Brody are seen together be Stan Hansen? A couple of folks I've spoken to seem to think so. With Hansen's whereabouts pretty much unknown as of late, I guess it's possible. If it is Hansen, and he's planning on working World Class for a stretch (does Fritz have the \$\$\$?), then I've got to assume that Brody would sooner set up a feud between himself and Stan than have Hansen unmasked as RRJ. We'll see.

In the "It's gonna get worse before it ever gets any better" department, Bill Murcer remains a MAJOR liability. On a recent TV show, he single-handedly destroyed an interview with Gary Hart, "Business Manager" Jim Holiday, Nord and Swenson. Any chance that Jart had to build some heat with these two monsters went right down the drain along wth Murcer's smart-assed empty headed comments. Somebody oughta tell Mercer to just keep his mouth shut.

The RPMs look pretty good, and reports are that their matches with the Fantastics so far have averaged 3 stars. The two teams will meet 5-3. Why though showcase the RPMs on TV against a heel team? You're certainly not going to get the over that way, Fritz.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry that we don't have more results this time. With the WWF layoff, they only started to produce shows again. Remember to send in results from any live show you attend. We'll include as many as possible. Meanwhile, let's get on to what we've got (Mike Viola take note of the type size).

4-10 KANSAS CITY (Central States) - courtesy of William Wilson...Rufus Jones over JJ Cody...Rip Rogers beat Joe Lightfoot...Warlord defeated Earthquake Ferris in a lumberjack match...Nick Bockwinkel downed Bob Brown...Stoney Burke over Krusher Karl Kovac...Debbie Combs retained her title over Penny Mitchell...Ken Timbs and Pork Chop Cash won tag titles from Ric McCord and Bart Batten...NOTES: Attendance 400...Tag belts had been held up prior to this night...Warlord won when Bob Brown used a chair on Ferris...Bock looked good and made Brown look good too.

4-15 LUBBOCK, TX (WCCW) - courtesy of Victor Martinez...Spike Huber drew Eric Embry in 15:00...Black Bart pinned Rick Hazzard in 17:00...Steve Simpson over Eli the Eliminator by DQ in 7:47...Spike Huber pinned Brian Adias in 11:19...The Fantastics over the Rock and Roll RPM's in 16:21...NOTES: Attendance around 250...card was awful...Hazzard wrestled as himself and got a better ovation than Grappler II ever did...Last match wasn't bad...They announced Mike Von Erich missing at this card and they stated that "foul play was suspected".

4-20 ST LOUIS (UWF) - courtesy of Harry White...Bob Bradley beat Mike Boyette (C)...Super Ninja pinned Ken Massey (C-)...Chavo & Steve Cox over Gary Young & Mike George by DQ (B-)...Nickla over Sunshine (D)...Steve Williams beat Viking (C+)...Gordy pinned One Man Gang

(C)...Gilbert pinned Houston with trunks
 (B+)...Savannah Jack/Adams/Taylor beat Sting/
 Steiner/Iceman in a first blood match (A)...
 Hayes/Roberts beat Irwin/Angel (B)...NOTES...
 Attendance 1000...Dark Journey pushed Sunshine
 off ropes to give Nickla win...Gang lost
 title night before so no title change...Williams
 acted as ref but was wasted in that role...
 Gilbert got plenty of cheers...first blood
 match had "false blades" instead of false
 pins...end came when Adams wiped the blood
 off Taylor and put it on Iceman...ref took
 a couple of good bumps in this one.

4-25 BALTIMORE (WWF) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma
 ..SD Jones pinned JJ Funk...Duggan pinned
 Iron Sheik...Hercules pinned Billy Jack in
 a chain match...Hart Foundation beat Bulldogs
 by DQ...Savage beat Steamboat by count out...
 Jake Roberts pinned Bobby Heenan...Ron Bass
 over Nick Kiniski...Can Am beat the Shadows...
 NOTES: Attendance: 4500...Herc got a pinfall
 victory clean, using chain to create a small
 package, but Boring Jack got in his licks
 after the match, complete with full nelson...
 Dynamite Kid worked about half the match,
 mainly using headlocks...his selling was
 to kicks and punches...not getting thrown
 around...looks to have lost a lot of weight
 including some from a haircut...Steamboat
 and Savage went a good 20 minutes...one four
 minute segment they went through the WMIII
 false pins...Jake put DDT on Heenan...Heenan
 was only a little woozy after it and got
 to his feet before Jake got the snake on
 him...it stayed on a whole two seconds...Shadows
 may be WWF answer to the Thunderfeet.

COMING NEXT ISSUE: Reader Howard Siegel take
 us on a trip down Memory Lane...another edition of
 the Third Fall...Feature by Jeff Siegel...Details
 on our Trivia Book...as well as the usual reports.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

First things first...last issue's trivia question was what city has seen the most World Heavyweight title changes? The answer is the Gateway City, St. Louis where the NWA title changed hands on a regular basis during the reign of promoter Sam Munchnick. This issue's question is another toughie...What collegiate record did Fritz Von Erich hold? There is no prize for a correct answer...this is just for fun. The answer will be given next issue.

For our Chicago readers (hopefully this will get to you in time) Jeff Siegel is having a video tape get together at his place on May 3. Call Jeff at 491-1698 for more information. I have not determined as of yet whether I'm going to be there or not, but i'm sure going to try. Again, call Jeff so he'll know how many is coming and also to get his address.

Sometimes I don't understand some of the commercials broadcast during wrestling shows. Would someone please explain to me what anyone would want with a watch that has its hands disappearing every once in a while? Even if they are only ten bucks....

Interesting side note...well at least a side note anyway...for those of you who stayed on and watched Top Rank Boxing on ESPN 4-24 (right after AWA wrestling) it came from Palmer Auditorium in Davenport, Iowa where I go for WWF cards occasionally. Hey, I was excited to see it at least.

If any of you have any ideas for me personally as to how to cut costs, let me know. Any changes in format or anything else you can think of without having to let the quality go down will be appreciated (the \$%@* at my last job just contested my unemployment - no income for at least the next two weeks).

I've received one of the most interesting articles I've ever read. It came from the Boston Phoenix, the April 3 edition. It was called "Even Nice Girls get to Bruise" and was written by Jeannine Mjoseh, a.k.a. Lady Maxine (Or Mad maxine). She is not out of wrestling, but she goes on to describe her experiences from the time she decided to try to going through Moolah's training school to working in the WWF. It is very insightfull with her revealing just enough that a mark wouldn't really catch on but also enough so that readers of bulletins like this would know exactly what she was

talking about. Here is a direct quote from the article: "I smacked the stuffing out of Dark Journey, my cutsey-pie opponent. I had lost the ability to work - I was shooting. She retaliated with a very hard kick to the crotch. While she and I were struggling in a real cat fight, my makeshift shirt fell off and I was exposed to the screaming crowd. I raced pout of the ring and took the golf cart back to the dressing room, sobbing the whole way. One week later, I threw in the towel. It was over. I drove 20 hours straight to Washington DC, finished with the 'orgy of evil'."

I remember that match where DJ kicked her, but it seems to me she had to be helped out of the ring. I certainly don't remember her shirt coming off however. Too bad they didn't do something along this line with Missy Hyatt (who on the last tape I saw of the UWF came to the ring in a sweatshirt, mais sans le bra. She looked cold.

As I warned last issue, my job search is going to take precedence over the newsletter. This is the thirtieth issue we've put together, and each has gone out on time. Should something come up job-wise, I have to put that first. What i'm trying to say is that the newsletter is going to continue, however, an issue or two down the road may be a few days late and I'll have no way of letting you know in advance. There are several of you who keep in contact by phone, so you will have the advantage there. I have an interview on Friday (the day this is being mailed out) for that position that I mentioned last issue where I would have to go to Cleveland to train for a week. This will be my fourth interview there, so things are progressing well at this point.

Not much else in the way of news. Be sure to vote in our tournament. We'd like to start setting some records there for response. Oh, and for those of you who asked how many subscribers we're up to now, the proper question should have been how many subscribers are you DOWN to. Any suggestions?

We'll see you in about two weeks. Keep the cards and letters coming'.

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WILL BE ON TIME FOR SURE!